

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 SAM-01 IO-14 SCCT-02

NIC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /178 W
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R 061700Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2856

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PFOR PINR AO FR

SUBJECT: UNITA'S POSSIBLE SOUTHERN STRATEGY AND RUMORS OF FRENCH
INVOLVEMENT IN RIGHT-WING PLOTTING

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: LUANDA 627

1. FOR PAST WEEK FEATURED ITEM ON LOCAL RUMOR CIRCUIT
HAS BEEN COALITION OF FRANCE, SOUTH AFRICA, LOCAL WHITE
REACTIONARIES AND UNITA TO SPLIT SOUTHERN ANGOLA FROM THE
NORTH AND ESTABLISH BLACK-LED (BY UNITA'S JONAS SAVIMBI)
BUT WHITE-CONTROLLED INDEPENDENT BUFFER STATE.

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2. WHILE RUMOR SEEMED NO MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN DOZEN OF

OTHERS FLOATING ABOUT LUANDA, FOUR FACTS, TWO OF WHICH ARE RECENT OCCURENCES, LEAD US REASSESS ITS POSSIBLE VERACITY.

A. TWO FRENCHMEN, CLAIMING TO BE NEWSMEN, DOMINIC DE ROUX OF ORTF AND JEAN PAUL BRUNELL, SUPPOSEDLY A DIRECTOR OF PARIS-MATCH, HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE FIELD WITH UNITA, OSTENSIBLY PREPARING A STORY. THEY SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN LUANDA ON WAY BACK TO PARIS AND SAID THEY WOULD RETURN SOON TO VISIT UNITA AGAIN. CURIOUSLY, THEY APPEARED TOTALLY UNAWARE THAT ORTF AND PARIS-MATCH HAD OTHER REPORTING TEAMS IN LUANDA.

B. HANDBILLS CIRCULATED IN LUANDA BEGINNING AUG 2, OSTENSIBLY BY UNITA, CALL FOR WHITES, MESTICOS AND SOUTHERN BLACKS (UNITA'S LEADER SAVIMBI IS FROM SOUTH) TO REMEMBER WHO KILLED THEM IN 1961 MASSACRES (PARTIAL ANSWER IS FNLA, WHICH LARGELY SYNONYMOUS WITH NORTHERN BACONGO TRIBE). THIS IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT FORGE COALITION OF POPULOUS SOUTH, WHITES AND MESTICOS AGAINST NORTH. (THEREIS A LONG-STANDING HISTORY OF ANIMOSITY AND VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS AND AS LATE AS AUG 1973 TWENTY-TWO SOUTHERN BLACKS WERE MASSACRED EN ROUTE TO WORK ON A COFFEE FARM IN THE NORTH.) HANDBILL, PART OF WHICH IS IN ENGLISH, COULD BE FROM UNITA OR FROM WHITE REACTIONARY GROUPS IN LUANDA. (UNITA TO DATE HAS SHOWN NO EVIDENCE OF HAVING ITS OWN URBAN ORGANIZATION.)

C. UNITA HAS SHOWN INCLINATION TO NEGOTIATE AND COOPERATE WITH THE PORTUGUESE SINCE APRIL 25. ITS PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN MILD AND IT HAS ACCEPTED A CEASE-FIRE. IT HAS NO KNOWN FOREIGN PATRON AND NO SOURCE OF FOREIGN FUNDS. MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS NOW FEEL UNITA HAS BEEN CO-OPTED BY RIGHT WING IN ANGOLA AND IS LITTLE MORE THAN A FRONT FOR WHITE INTERESTS.

D. THE BENEFITS TO SOUTH AFRICA OF A FRIENDLY, BLACK-LED BUFFER STATE IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA ARE OBVIOUS, AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS HERE ARE CONCERNED OVER RUMORS OF SOUTH AFRICA INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER TO DATE NO PROOF HAS BEEN OFFERED TO BACK UP THE RUMORS OF WEAPONS

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COMING INTO SOUTHERN ANGOLA FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF ACTION ADDRESSEES HAVE BIO INFORMATION ON TWO FRENCH REPORTERS MENTIONED PARA 2, OR SOME INDICATION OF THEIR BONA FIDES, POST WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION JUDGE FRENCH-CONNECTION SIDE OF RUMOR.

4. COMMENT: IT BECOMING APPARENT THAT SOMETHING IS BREWING

WITH RIGHT WING AND UNITA. ARMY IS WORRIED ABOUT THIS AND MANY RELIABLE, SOBER LOCAL SOURCES ARE CONVINCED DEAL HAS BEEN MADE WITH SAVIMBI TO MAKE HIM HEAD OF AN INDEPENDENT SOUTHERN ANGOLA, A NEW CLIENT STATE OF REP OF SOUTH AFRICA.

5. BACKGROUND: FOR SHORT PERIOD AFTER THE APRIL 25 PORTUGUESE COUP THERE WAS MODERATE AMOUNT PUBLIC SPECULATION HERE OVER POSSIBILITY OF A NORTH-SOUTH SPLIT TO BE PROVOKED BY SOUTHERN, PRO-FEDERATION VICTORY IN THE THEN EXPECTED INDEPENDENCE-OR-CONFEDERATION REFERENDUM. PROPONENTS THIS THEORY USUALLY CITED FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. LONG-STANDING NORTH-SOUTH ETHNIC RIVALRY EXACERBATED BY COMMON OCCURENCE KILLINGS, BRAWLINGS, RAPES WHEN SOUTHERNERS WORK IN NORTHERN COFFEE AREAS.

B. SIGNIFICANT WHITE SETTLER PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY NOVA LISBOA AREA.

C. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN HAVING A WHITE-CONTROLLED BUFFER STATE AND (ASSUMED) WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST, AT LEAST FINANCIALLY.

D. PAST SUCCESSFUL USE SOUTHERN BLACKS (REGULAR ARMY AND IRREGULARS) AGAINST NORTHERN-BASED MPLA AND FNLA.

6. "SPLIT" THEORISTS ASSERTED SOUTHERN BLACKS MAKE UP MAJORITY AND WOULD "WIN" A REFERENDUM BY VOTING FOR FEDERATION (WITH PARTIAL CONTROL BY WHITES) AS LESSER EVIL THAN VINDICTIVE CONTROL BY NORTHERN BLACKS. SPECULATION ALONG THESE LINES LARGELY DIED DOWN UNTIL UNITA LEADER SAVIMBI'S STATEMENTS BEGAN APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS. SINCE THEN MANY ANGOLAN WHITES HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF UNITA AND SAVIMBI IN CONFIDENTIAL

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INCREASINGLY POSITIVE TERMS, APPARENTLY HOPING TO WIN MILITARILY WHAT SOME FELT (PROBABLY WRONGLY) THEY COULD HAVE SECURED THROUGH AN HONEST REFERENDUM.
PORTER

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